

Interview Summary

Person(s) Interviewed: Michael Barry, Region I On-Scene Coordinator Team Leader.

Interviewers: Scott Gordon (by phone) and Susan Studlien

Date: December 2, 2015

Time: 2:00-3:00p.m.

Michael (Mike) was interviewed on December 2, 2015, as part of an internal EPA After-Action review of the Agency's response to the release at Gold King Mine in Colorado on August 5, 2015. Mike was deployed as the Incident Commander for the Durango Incident Command during the period September 22 – October 9. In that role, he had overall responsibility for the activities in the IC. .

Synopsis of Interview:

General Observations and Recommendations:

Mike arrived in Durango after the Area Command has been dissolved, and at a point when the response was gradually ramping down and had become more routine. Regions 6 and 9 had taken over their own operations. Mike oversaw Region 8 operations at the mine and downstream. Sampling ramped down from daily to 2x/week to 1x/week during his tenure. Resident well sampling ended September 30. Headquarters handled PIO function and cleared data for website. ICP handled local PIO liaison / CIC .

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Chain of command and roles were clarified by a headquarters e-mail to all IC, R6,7,8 RICT, OEM & AA's staff on 9/27/2015.

Daily regular communications with Region 8 and OEM allowed ICP to meet objectives of response, focus on operations while Region 8 & OEM focused on larger issues.

Emergency Operations Center / Incident Command / Unified Area Command:

Mike assumed the IC role immediately following a serious conflict the weekend of September 19-20 which resulted from an inability to balance needs of operations at the mine site and stakeholder requests for sampling. Region 8 RA had to make what was a tactical decision to resolve this conflict. As a result of this conflict a Deputy IC left Durango out of normal rotation and Mike was called on September 20 to report as IC on September 22 to replace the outgoing ICs scheduled departure on 9/22. Mike's goals as IC were to pursue existing Durango ICP objectives, and to restore morale and confidence in the IC and with Region 8 and OEM.

Mike got good support from Region 8, headquarters EOC and OEM.

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Lessons Learned:

(b) (5) DPP [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Commented [BM1]:

Data and Communcations:

(b) (5) DPP [Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Commented [BM2]:

Lessons Learned:

(b) (5) DPP [Redacted]
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